

The proposed vaccine passport for Montgomery County is a discriminatory, segregatory, marginalizing, polarizing mandate, and although I find it shocking that these reasons alone are not enough to permanently bench the proposal, apparently they are not.

The proposed vaccine mandate is also built on the false pretense that the vaccines will “stop the spread” or “end Covid”, but the current vaccine cannot do any of these things. Fauci himself said just about everybody, **regardless of vaccination status**, is going to get Omicron. So if we are not stopping the spread or ending the pandemic, why put businesses in the position of losing more customers and all MoCo residents in the position of living in a semi-police state when they want a cup of coffee?

The Council Members say that the purpose of the mandate is to push to get the 5-11 year olds vaccinated. Who exactly do the Council Members and Elrich think they are to interject themselves in the medical decision a parent makes for their child? Where in their job descriptions is that? It is not public health or safety, it is a private citizen and a private medical decision. And if a parent is pausing before getting their child vaccinated, perhaps weighing the fate of permanently disabled 12 year old Maddie De Garay after her mRNA vaccine first dose, then the MoCo Council and Elrich are not qualified or legally empowered to push that parent into a decision. It is absolute government overreach, and for what? Healthy children are not hospitalized with covid. Healthy adults are rarely hospitalized with Omicron.

We have a pandemic of the unhealthy, NOT a pandemic of the unvaccinated. The Council Members, at the last meeting, made some serious scientifically erroneous statements regarding the pandemic, showing the lack of knowledge they have overall. Council Member Hans Reimer thinks he “has to make tough decisions”, but he really just doesn’t want to hear opposing opinions he most likely doesn’t understand. These attitudes are incredibly dangerous, especially when they lean towards totalitarian ideas of discrimination and marginalization. If any of you have a true understanding of the pandemic, covid, and the science behind it you would understand that targeted vaccination will lead to the same decrease in hospitalization that you are looking for with this boneheaded vaccine passport. The young (under 50) and healthy are **not** ending up in the hospital, and the vaccinated young and healthy **are** still spreading covid when they get it. MoCo should be focusing all this energy and money on a health agenda to fight obesity and all the comorbidities it brings with it to the table. Instead of telling people to stay at home, the County and Council members should be telling its citizens to go out for walks.

The proposed vaccine passport will accomplish nothing that it is aiming to accomplish and will devastate local business, the people’s relationship with it’s representatives, as well as relationships within the community; it will tear MoCo down and it will tear MoCo apart. I also look forward to voting every single one of the current County Council Members out this summer, and will make it my mission to do so, but for the here and now, I have to demand that the Council stop pushing discriminatory, hate filled agendas in a county supposedly known for its tolerance and leanings towards equality. If you pass this mandate, you will need to start printing lawn signs for all of MoCo that express “Hate has found a Home here!”.